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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Max Stadthagen (Nicaragua), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.14

Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system", 1/ and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on that report, 2/

Noting the need for the improvement of the development of communication capacities within the United Nations system to ensure effective inter-agency coordination and cooperation,

Recognizing the pivotal role of communication in the successful implementation of development programmes within the United Nations system and in the improvement of the interaction among actors in development, namely, the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations,

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1/ A/50/126-E/1995/20, annex.

2/ A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1, annex.

Recognizing also that the regional commissions can play a role, where appropriate, in the development of communication capacities for the development of developing countries,

Recognizing further the need for transparent and system-wide communication coordination within the United Nations system in order to improve the planning, formulation and execution of development programmes to benefit the international community, in particular the developing countries,

Aware of the need to intensify the efforts aimed at further reducing administrative and other related costs in various activities of organizations, agencies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system and improving the effectiveness of programme delivery as regards development programmes of the United Nations system as a development partner in the development of the developing countries,

Noting that the Joint Inspection Unit will be preparing a separate study entitled "A review of telecommunications and related information technologies in the United Nations system",

1. Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system", 1/ and of the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on that report; 2/

2. Recognizes the important role of communication for development programmes in the United Nations system in enhancing the transparency of system-wide coordination within the United Nations system, inter alia, for the development of the developing countries;

3. Invites the Committee on Information of the Secretariat, in accordance with its mandate, and where appropriate, to consider this issue at its forthcoming session;

4. Recognizes the need further to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and to maximize the impact of the development programmes of the entities concerned;

5. Also recognizes the role of effective communication in disseminating the outcome and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and in ensuring the effective flow of such information to various non-governmental organizations, including grass-roots-level organizations;

6. Encourages the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, as appropriate, to use informal mechanisms, such as round-table conferences to improve communication for development programmes in the United Nations system;

7. Takes note of decision 5.3 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, adopted at its one hundred thirty-ninth session, in which the Board requested the Joint Inspection Unit to prepare a study entitled "A review of telecommunications and related information technologies in the United Nations system" and, in this

context, invites the Joint Inspection Unit to take into consideration the requirements of developing countries;

8. Emphasizes the need for the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to develop a systematic approach to capacity-building in the development of communication capacities, particularly with respect to the training of field workers and development workers and technicians as well as communication planners and specialists, especially in the developing countries;

9. Invites the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as Governments and the regional commissions, to consider identifying focal points for the purpose of facilitating dialogue in the exchange of information on communication on issues related to development so as to strengthen coordination and international cooperation in this area;

10. Invites all countries, in particular the donor community to provide resources, as appropriate, to support initiatives on development of capacities for developing countries;

11. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in accordance with that agency's mandate in the field of communication and with the relevant resolution adopted at its last general conference, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and on a biennial basis thereafter.